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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/734,165	12/15/2003	Yoshihisa Usami	Q78826	2085
23373	7590	06/15/2006		
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20037				
			EXAMINER VARGOT, MATHIEU D	
			ART UNIT 1732	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 06/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



1.The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art as generally set forth in paragraph 1 of the previous action with these additional comments.

Applicant has amended the claims to recite that the number of molders is 2 or greater. However, page 4, lines 22-23 clearly show that it has been contemplated to use two or more substrate molding machines—however, the number of dye machines in this case is said to be 4 or more. As noted in the previous action, the exact number of dye machines per molders would certainly have been within the skill level of the art so that the dye coaters and molders are used as effectively and economically as possible.

2.Applicant's arguments filed March 27, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's comments are essentially directed to the instant invention making an optimal use of the machinery at hand, so that the machinery does not lie idle during the processing cycle. As applicant should be well aware, this kind of optimizing usage of available machinery is simply too well known in industry to make its usage patentable in the instant environment, regardless of the particular reasons why such is advantageous. In other words, one of ordinary skill in the art, assessing the time the machines are used (ie, cycle time) and usage demands on the machines,

would have been readily able to optimize the required number of dye and molding machines needed and hence the instant relationship between them.

**3.THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

4.Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mathieu D. Vargot whose telephone number is 571 272-1211. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 9 to 6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina Johnson, can be reached on 571 272-1176. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.


Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

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Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

M. Vargot  
June 8, 2006

  
Mathieu D. Vargot  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1732

6/8/06